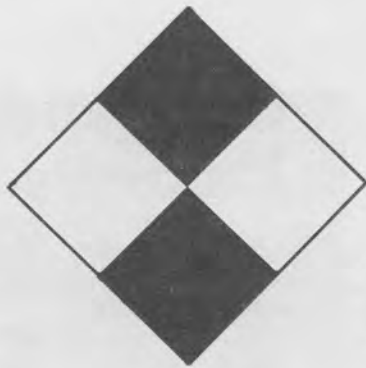




Directions Newsletter

**Deep East Texas Regional Mental
Health Mental Retardation Services**

Volume 10

Summer Issue

No. 4

Council Takes Initiative

Through an outstanding local initiative, the Nacogdoches County MHMR Advisory Council hosted a mental health seminar in May for the professional and lay workers in all human services and health-related agencies in Deep East Texas.

The seminar, conducted at La Hacienda Restaurant, 521 North Street in Nacogdoches, included two workshop sessions: Workshop I, "Texas Mental Health Code and the Commitment Process" and Workshop II, "Accepting What is..." Conducting the second session was Dr. Phil Hook, executive director of the Pine Cove Conference Center in Tyler and Pine Cove Assistant Director Shelley Chapin who is a terminally ill patient, writer, and public speaker.

Advisory Council chairperson is Sandra Barnes, and mental health coordinator is Mary Patterson.

Members of the Nacogdoches County Advisory Council are Mrs. Barnes, Florence Elliott-Howard, Barbara Cherry, Sarah Dudley, Mona Logan, Allen Micheletti, Julie Hardy, Kathy Kolar, Sally Merritt, Constance Culbreath, and Mrs. Patterson.

*In an emergency
call the MHMR
Crisis Line
1-800-392-8343*



COUNCIL Chairperson Sandra Barnes greets special guest Shelley Chapin at a luncheon meeting of the recent Mental Health Seminar held in Nacogdoches by the County Advisory Council. With them are Pat Hoge, left, director of mental health services in Nacogdoches County, and Dr. Phil Hook, executive director of Pine Cove Conference Center in Tyler. Ms. Chapin is assistant director of the Pine Cove Center and is a terminally ill patient, writer, and public speaker.

Burke Appointed to Statewide Council Post

Ward R. Burke of Angelina County, founding chairman of the Deep East Texas MHMR Board of Trustees, has recently been appointed to the Texas Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities. He was appointed to the Council by Gov. Mark White.

Mr. Burke comes to the Council with a long history of public service work with the mentally handicapped.

He was co-founder and first president of the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC), Angelina County, and past director of ARC, Texas, both of which he is still a member. He served on the board of the Texas Department of Hospital and State Schools and its predecessor the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR) for 8

Please see page 2.

Executive Director's Report...

Future Based on Grass-Roots Support

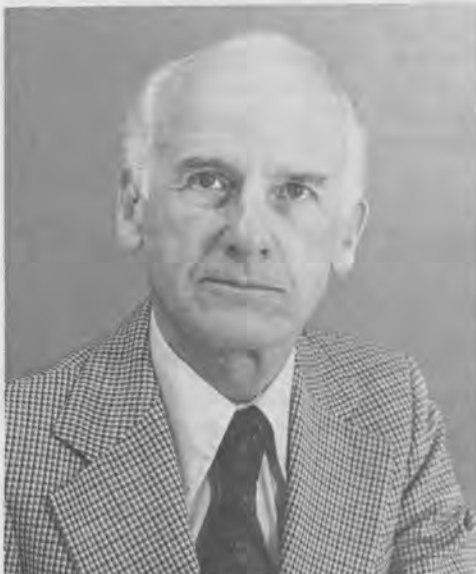
by Jim McDermott, Ph.D.

Deep East Texas MHMR is embarked on a most challenging course of growth. This challenge comes with having to administer a service delivery system over a 13-county service area from one regional office in Lufkin. By necessity much of the administrative authority and control was centered in Lufkin during the early years of the Center's development. This was mainly because the concept of community-based MHMR services was just being introduced into the communities of our region. But now we find ourselves firmly established in most communities, and we have developed a stable group of staff leaders in these same communities. The stage is set now to shift more administrative authority and responsibility for our services to the local level, and to consolidate our various program areas into local centers. Here we can more adequately provide a continuum of services to a broad spectrum of clients who need our help because we can utilize our

resources much better and work together more effectively as a local team. What we have found as this concept is carried out is that there has been an increase in enthusiasm from local staff and their citizen supporters. We have always suspected there was great potential in our communities for an outpouring of enthusiasm and support for their fellow citizens who are delayed and impaired. Our suspicions have proven true, and we are very glad.

The future looks very bright as this local initiative continues. Support organizations are being formed in almost every county in the region. Resale shops are opening; fund-raising drives are being launched.

While we must always struggle for our local citizens' share of state dollars, I believe we can count on our own neighbors doing their part for the retarded and mentally impaired. And we are in the process now of planning a staff organization that will support them in every way possible.



WARD R. BURKE
'On State Council'

Burke Continued from page 1.

years, chairing the organization during the last two years of his involvement. He has also been a member of the State Mental Health Advisory Council for six years.

He also represents Deep East Texas MHMR on the Texas Council of MHMR Centers, an organization for trustees of community centers, of which he was past president, co-founder and currently serves as a board member.

Burke retired recently from Temple-Eastex, a land holding and wood producing company, as vice president of law after 27 years of service. He is now serving as a trustee and executive secretary of the T.L.L. Temple Foundation, working to administer funds to charitable organizations.

Outstanding Employee

Marsha Brown Ford, three-year veteran on the regional diagnosis and evaluation team, is this summer's Employee-of-the-Quarter at Deep East Texas MHMR Services.

She is certified as an educational specialist for service on the team by the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. She came to work at MHMR in September, 1981, and was named director of the team in September, 1982. Before that, she worked for five years as a teacher at Lufkin State School and at Crockett State School.

Mrs. Ford is a 1977 graduate of Southwest Texas State University with a bachelor of science in special education. She was named to the Dean's List on several occasions. She then graduated in 1982 with a master of education in guidance and counseling from Stephen F. Austin State University.

She is married to Robert Glenn Ford and they have one son, Matthew, 21 months old. They make their home in Crockett.

She describes her work at MHMR as "a terrific experience. Delightful. An opportunity to serve the mentally retarded."



CERTIFICATE — *Diagnosis and Evaluation Team Director, Marsha Brown Ford, is this summer's Employee-of-the-Quarter at Deep East Texas MHMR. Presenting the certificate of award is Executive Director Jim McDermott, left, and Marsha's supervisor, Larry Heaton.*

Effort Pays Off for County MHMR Services

Staff for Shelby County MHMR Services proudly announce the opening of a new resale shop, "The Second Time Around," in Center sponsored by the newly formed Shelby County Association for Human Development, Inc.

"Community response has been terrific," says Kathy Thomas, local MHMR director. "All labor and materials necessary to get the shop in order, including shelving, have been donated. And other donations, including many from our clients, are pouring in."

The shop plans to sell small appliances, clothing, baby articles, books, handicrafts, and miscellaneous household goods.

Because the shop is under the oversight of the local support organization, all proceeds will go to MHMR Services in Shelby County. Association Board members are Barbara Smith, President of the Center Mental Health Association; Melba Crouch who is experienced in mental retardation programs; and Wilma Beck who is experienced in substance abuse programs.

The shop is staffed by volunteers, including many clients, and it is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



FULL SWING — Development efforts are going full swing in Nacogdoches County as local staff and advisory council members work to establish their permanent support organization for local services. One of the first fund-raising projects this summer was this food booth at the Nacogdoches Festival in the Park. From left are Nancy Jones, director of the local halfway house and sheltered workshop, along with Rose Adams, houseparent; Eric Morris, volunteer; Andy Harrison, houseparent; and Adrienne Lapp, houseparent.

Volunteers Get Tax Break

Tax benefits available to volunteers are under the general charitable contribution deduction of the Internal Revenue Code.

Representative types of expenditures that volunteers may deduct are:

Direct gifts of money to an organization.

Automobile mileage and expenses.

Bus and cab transportation expenses.

Parking and tolls.

Special uniforms.

Telephone bills.

Entertainment and meals given to others.

Costs of meals and lodging, if away overnight.

Travel expenses above per diem allowance.

Tickets to charity benefits, above intrinsic value.



ECKERD DRUGS in the Lufkin Mall donated more than \$1,200 in candy to the regional infant intervention program administered by Deep East Texas MHMR Services. At the presentation were, from left, Eckerd Manager Mike Ray, Assistant Manager Ralph Denney, County Infant Intervention Director Shirley Stubblefield, and Infant Intervention Worker Willie Johnson.

Our Hero, Mr. Bomer

by Donna Alexander
Acting Director
Hardin County MR Services

Most people at the age of retirement would be satisfied to sit on the front porch and watch the world go by, but not Harrison Bomer. The 71-year-old hero of Hardin County MR Services can be found every Tuesday at 8:00 a.m., sharp, checking off items on his "List of Things to Do" at the Hardin County Sheltered Workshop.

Ask Maurice Salles from the Workshop, "What does Mr. Bomer do?" She replies, "You name it, and he does it."

Mr. Bomer keeps the facility vans in good working condition by weekly checking hoses, belts, tires, and whatever else needs to be done. If he can't take care of a problem with a vehicle, Mr. Bomer will find a place to take it, and at a good price.

Every Tuesday Mr. Bomer and several clients from the shop pick up aluminum cans from three local taverns for recycling. If a toilet is clogged, or a faucet drips, Mr. Bomer will work on it. If it's mechanical and won't work, Mr. Bomer takes a hand at it.

Since the age of 14 Mr. Bomer has been a productive member of the work force. Mr. and Mrs. Bomer have lived in Silsbee since 1961 when they moved from Houston. The Bomers have three children and seven grandchildren, but since their children do not live in Texas the Bomers do not get to see them often. Until four years ago when he retired, Mr. Bomer owned and operated his own trucking company.

Clara, his wife of almost 50 years, proudly tells of how Mr. Bomer is always volunteering to help neighboring widows by repairing cars, tilling gardens, and taking out garbage cans. Mr. Bomer also lends a hand to the local Resale Shop and Halfway House. Mr. Bomer figured out a way to stabilize the washing machine in a mobile home recently purchased by the local Association for Retarded Citizens for two clients who have moved to independent living.

At the JoAnn Fries Halfway House when things are in need of repair, the clients, as well as the staff, can be



HARDIN HERO and catfish king, Harrison Bomer, stands 10 feet tall in the eyes of the clients and staff of Hardin County MR Services. Helping other people is a favorite hobby for Mr. Bomer as well as catfish fishing, as proved by this prized Opelousas flathead.

heard to say, "I'll bet Mr. Bomer can fix it."

Even with his busy schedule Mr. Bomer finds time to be an active member of the First Baptist Church in Silsbee, and squeeze in his favorite hobby, fishing.

Everyone connected with the Hardin County MR Services could say helping other people is a hobby for Mr. Bomer. His caring and giving qualities make him a special person not only to staff, but also to clients. Mr. Bomer not only works for our clients, but also works with them.

All of us in Silsbee would like to take this opportunity to give Mr. and Mrs. Bomer our heart-filled thanks and appreciation.

Client Rights

Any client, relative of a client, or representative of a client who has a complaint, comment, or suggestion regarding the health, safety, welfare, or legal and human rights of a patient or client of this center is invited and urged to submit them in writing to:

Chairperson
Public Responsibility Committee
P.O. Box 935
Lufkin, Texas 75901

The Public Responsibility Committee is an independent, impartial body. None of its members are employees of this center.



PEPS IT UP — Bill Harrison, houseparent at the Nacogdoches County Halfway House, peps up the crowd during talent night at Camp Leander. Talent night culminates a very active week at Camp Leander for MHMR clients which included horseback riding and swimming.

Fun Time at Camp Leander...



LITTLE TEACUP — Marsha Brown Ford and Larry Heaton, MHMR staff in Lufkin, prepare to demonstrate the "little teacup" rhyme during a magic act at Camp Leander. Clients from all over the Deep East Texas Region joined MHMR staff for a week of outdoor fun at Camp Leander, located in Austin in the Texas Hill Country.



KING AND QUEEN of Camp Leander proudly show off their royal regalia following their coronation this summer. Left is King Ricky Radway from Center and Queen Lissa Ann Copaus from Crockett.

Special Thanks

Special thanks go to Raymond Jefferson of the Tidbit Grocery in Jasper. Mr. Jefferson gives juice, cookies, and other treats to workshop clients whenever they stop by his store on their way in from a job. Clients and staff join in saying thanks to Mr. Jefferson.



A.S.A.P. CENTER — Staff from the newly established Angelina Substance Abuse Program Center hosted an open house recently that was attended by many leaders from social service agencies in the region including numerous county judges, Rusk State Hospital, Deep East Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the Texas Department of Human Resources. From left are Center Director Juanda Morgan, Martha Mosshart (caseworker), Jana Mooney (secretary), and Lorie Addison from Lufkin, a student intern with Sam Houston State University.

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Keeps Movin' On Up!...

Donald Johnson of Jasper is a man who knows how to set, and then reach his goals in life.

A former client in the Jasper/Newton County MHMR Center, Donald has recently moved into his own, new two-bedroom trailer, and taken a job at Brookshire Bros. in Jasper.

"Donald worked on the highway crew and saved enough money to make the down payment on the trailer," says Kathy Lockhart of the Jasper/Newton Center. The trailer was purchased under a special arrangement with the local Jasper County Association for Handicapped Citizens, Inc.

Next, he got a full-time job with the new Brookshire Bros. grocery store in Jasper, first as a stocker, and then as a floor polisher.

Donald is still moving ahead. His current goal is to buy himself a small car. Good luck, Donald!



FINAL PLANS — Contractors and local staff member Kathy Lockhart go over final plans for the renovation of the new Jasper/Newton MHMR Center. With Ms. Lockhart are Jim Farringer from Pineland and Kenneth Ross from Jacksonville, both with Triple R Construction, contractor for the \$127,000 project.



NEW CAREER — The newly opened Brookshire Bros. grocery store in Jasper is the perfect setting for Donald Johnson to start his career of independent living. With him is Wayman Farr, left, manager of the store, who gives Donald the fine points of grocery sacking. Donald has only recently moved to his new, two-bedroom trailer.

Renovation Nears Completion

A renovation project at the new Jasper/Newton MHMR Center in Jasper is near completion, announces Marty Walker, local director who was largely responsible for the grant award which funded the project.

Contractor for the project, Triple R Construction, anticipates an August 15 completion date.

The project was funded through a grant initiated by Jasper County with the concurrence of the Jasper Independent School District who actually owns the property where the Center is located.

"This is an excellent example of what can be done when local staff take the initiative in bringing together local support for projects that will benefit our clients for years to come,"

comments MHMR Executive Director Jim McDermott. "We applaud Marty's initiative, but we also are very grateful for the cooperation and support of the county government and school district."

Once completed the Center will house both mental health and mental retardation services for the citizens of Jasper and Newton counties. Combined will be the current outpatient clinic, located at 215 Water Street, and the sheltered workshop, now housed at the Center location.

"We are very excited and the energy level is very high," comments Ms. Walker. "We expect to utilize our resources to a much greater advantage once the services are consolidated under one roof."